

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hand held lighter, comprising a fuel container, a fuel valve for allowing fuel to be fed from the fuel container to an ignition point, a lever for operating the fuel valve, a flint, a rotatably mounted sparking wheel contacting the flint, so that when the sparking wheel is rotated by a user, sparks are generated by the flint and projected to the ignition point, at least one side wheel **having a circumferential surface and a diameter** being provided, adjacent to the sparking wheel **and rigidly connected thereto**, wherein the circumferential surface of the side wheel is smooth, **wherein any protrusions or indentations on the surface do not exceed 0.1 mm in depth**, so that, if a force is applied by a user to the circumferential surface of the side wheel and the sparking wheel, which force would in the absence of the side wheel be just sufficient to rotate the sparking wheel and to generate sparks, the user's thumb or finger will slip on the side wheel, **the side wheel comprising a first axle projecting from one side, the first axle being received in a bearing, and a second axle on the other side which is received in a bearing in the sparking wheel**.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A hand held lighter according to claim 1, wherein **the sparking wheel has an outside diameter**, the diameter of the side wheel **is being**

larger than the outside diameter of the sparking wheel.

4. (currently amended) A hand held lighter according to claim 1, wherein the sparking wheel has an outside diameter, the diameter of the side wheel ~~is being~~ substantially equal to the outside diameter of the sparking wheel.

5. (currently amended) A hand held lighter according to claim 1, wherein the sparking wheel has an outside diameter, the diameter of the side wheel ~~is being~~ smaller than the outside diameter of the sparking wheel.

6. (currently amended) The hand held lighter according to claim 1, wherein the valve is operable by ~~a~~ the lever, the lever comprising a free end operable by the user's thumb, resilient means being provided between the free end of the lever and a bracket on which the lever is mounted.

7. (original) A hand held lighter according to claim 1, further comprising a shield.

8. (original) A hand held lighter according to claim 7, wherein the shield stands around and projects above the side of the sparking wheel and side wheel.

9-14. (canceled)

15. (new) A hand held lighter according to claim 7, wherein the shield has a height and the sparking wheel has a height which is substantially equal to the height of the shield.

16. (new) A hand held lighter according to claim 7, wherein the shield has a height and the sparking wheel has a height which is greater than the height of the shield.